



CHURCH OF DIVINE MERCY

Address: 117, Jalan Kenari, Sg. Ara, 11900 Bayan Lepas, Penang

Tel: 04-646 6881 / 013-584 6881 | Email: cdmpenang@outlook.com

Website: www.cdm.my | Facebook: Church of Divine Mercy Sg Ara | Instagram: @cdmpenang

Parish Office Hours: Closed on Monday

9.00am – 5.00pm (Tuesday – Friday) | 9.00am – 1.00pm (Saturday & Sunday)



LINKTR.EE/CDMPENANG

Parish Priest speaks...

Courage or fortitude is one of the cardinal virtues. The Catechism defines it as "the moral virtue that ensures firmness in difficulties and constancy in the pursuit of the good." Courage is one of the keys for us to live uprightly and with dignity. Today's readings exhort us to live by this virtue in faith, and not to be governed by fear.

The prophet Elijah has an encounter with God on the holy mountain. God is preceded, however, by 3 extraordinary phenomena which normally provoke fear: a strong and heavy wind, an earthquake and a fire. Elijah may have been afraid of all these, but he does not withdraw in fear. The Lord had told him to go outside and stand on the mountain, so he remains standing, waiting for the Lord, who, however, was not present in the 3 dramatic forces. In a remarkable parallel, the Gospel also mentions 3 things that cause fear. The disciples have a strong wind blowing against them, they are being tossed about by the waves, and most terrifying of all, they see what they take to be a ghost. Unlike Elijah on the mountain, the disciples are overcome with fear. We are led to reflect on things that usually cause us fear: difficulties that upset or prevent our plans like strong headwinds, upheavals in life that cause instability like earthquakes or big waves, and mysterious natural or unnatural occurrences like fire or a ghost. The virtue of courage enables us to remain firm despite all these. It keeps our instinctual fear in check so that we can encounter God. Another aspect of courage is "constancy in the pursuit of the good." This has a military connotation, calling forth synonyms like manliness, bravery and valour. In a battle, courage is what enables us to persevere in opposing a stronger enemy. In the pursuit of good, we fight courageously despite what sometimes seems like overwhelming odds against us.

"Constancy in the pursuit of good" certainly describes the attitude of St. Paul, whom we see in today's second reading as a man in turmoil, with "great sorrow and constant anguish" in his heart. His anguish is caused by his love for his own people, his fellow Jews, who have resisted his efforts to evangelize them. The Jews have received many privileges, as Paul readily acknowledges. To them belongs the so-called seven gifts: adoption, glory, covenants, the law, worship, promises and the patriarchs. They are the Chosen People, and God, throughout history, has fought on their side. Knowing this, Paul would not recklessly pick a battle with them.

But he knows now that they must still receive the greatest gift of all, faith in Jesus Christ. In his determination to share this gift, Paul courageously perseveres through every difficulty.

At the centre of the readings are the words of Jesus to the disciples, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid." The basis for our courage, whether against our natural fears or in support of our firm pursuit of the good, is the person of Jesus Christ. His statement, "It is I," alludes to God's revelation of His name to Moses, "I AM." To be in the presence of God is to have all we need to face the turbulent storms of life. Elijah's experience on the mountain teaches us the same lesson.

When Jesus says, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid," the wind and the waves are still threatening the disciples. In that moment, His words may seem like no more than a tiny whispering sound. Yet He cannot be ignored, for He is standing on the water. Peter finds himself between two frightening options: either to remain in the boat and face the power of nature, or to approach this "ghost" and face the power of God. At Jesus' word, "Come," Peter courageously chooses the way of faith. This is Jesus' invitation to us whenever fear threatens to stop us or overwhelm us. He exhorts us to walk with Him in faith. Peter's moment of hesitation only makes the options clearer: to face danger on our own results in our sinking into the world's chaos; to reach out in faith to Jesus results in our salvation. When we call on Him in prayer, "Lord, save me!" He stretches out His hand and catches us. He shows us His kindness in every tiny whispering sound, in every gentle nudge of the Holy Spirit. He grants us His salvation when He stretches out His hand on the Cross. With faith we remain firm in our conviction that His sacrifice on the Cross has saved us all; with courage we remain constant in our pursuit of the good, which is His holy will.

"Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid." – Matthew 14:27

- What strong headwinds am I currently facing that test my resolve to keep doing what is right?
- How can I quiet my heart today to hear God's "tiny whispering sound" amidst the noise of my fears?
- When I feel myself sinking, what is the specific fear that keeps me from reaching out for Jesus' hand?

Mass & Prayer Times	Date	Description
19th Sunday in Ordinary Time		
DM Chaplet 8.30am	Sun 9 Aug	1 Kgs 19: 9, 11-13 Rom 9: 1-5 Mt 14: 22-33
BM Mass 9.00am		
No Mass	Mon 10 Aug	St Lawrence, Deacon & Martyr
Lauds 6.20am	Tue 11 Aug	St Clare, Virgin
Mass 6.45am		
DM Chaplet 3.00pm	Wed 12 Aug	St Jane Frances de Chantal, Religious
Lauds 6.20am		
Mass 6.45am	Thu 13 Aug	SS. Pontian, Pope, and Hippolytus, Priest, Martyrs
DM Chaplet 3.00pm		
Lauds 6.20am	Fri 14 Aug	St Maximilian Kolbe, Priest & Martyr
Mass 6.45am		
DM Chaplet 3.00pm	Sat 15 Aug	The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Novena to OMPH 5.15pm		
Mass 5.30pm	Sun 16 Aug	20th Sunday in Ordinary Time Is 56: 1, 6-7 Rom 11: 13-15, 29-32 Mt 15: 21-28
DM Chaplet Confirmation Mass 8.30am		

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

MEDITATION / CHARISMATIC

Charismatic Renewal Group:

Wed, 12 & 26 Aug (8.00pm) at St. Faustina Hall

Christian Meditation:

Wed, 19 Aug (8.30pm) at St JP II Adoration Room

Chinese Christian Meditation:

Thur, 13 Aug 2026 (8.30pm) at St JP II Adoration Room



PARISH / DIOCESE ANNOUNCEMENTS

This year for pastoral reasons, the Catholic Bishops' Conference has transferred the celebration of the Solemnity of Assumption to Sun, 16 August. Attendance at any of the Masses celebrated for the weekend (Saturday sunset and Sunday morning) fulfills both holy days of obligation.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat, 1 Aug (5.30pm): RM1385.00 (1st Collection) RM1505.00 (Poor)
Sun, 2 Aug (9.00am): RM2761.00 (1st Collection) RM3188.00 (Poor)

THANKSGIVING MASS & HERBAL SOAP WORKSHOP

In conjunction with the feast day of St. Maximilian Kolbe, the patron saint for the Penang Diocesan Prison Ministry. Soaps produced will be given to inmates within Penang Diocese. All are invited. Breakfast provided.

Date/Time: **Fri, 14 Aug 2026** (Mass at 6.45am, workshop at 7.30am-9.30am)

JESUS, OUR HEALER & HOPE

An invitation to the Tamil-speaking community by the Catholic Charismatic Renewal (Penang Island Deanery) to participate in Mass with Prayers for Healing.

Date/Time: **Wed, 26 Aug (8.00pm)**

Venue: Cathedral of the Holy Spirit

Contact: Jessie Thomson (012-4027697)

PARENTING TEENS: NAVIGATING THE TEEN YEARS TOGETHER*

The Penang Diocesan Family Life Commission invites parents, grandparents, and teenagers to participate in this workshop which would be held in both English & Mandarin.

Date/Time: **Sun, 23 August 2026 (2.00pm to 5.30pm)** Closing date 16 Aug

Venue: Monsignor Aloysius Spirituality Centre (MASC) Penang, 52L Jalan Penang

Registration Fees: RM15.00 (parent workshop) / RM5 (teen workshop)

(Both workshops inclusive of workshop materials and light refreshment)

Contact: Theresa (017-5788192)

TRIUMPH HEART OF MARY (THM) RETREAT: INTO THE DEEP

Designed to provide spiritual formation for those desiring to deepen their relationship with the Blessed Trinity and to grow as prayer warriors.

Dates: **Fri, 4 Sep – Sun, 6 Sep 2026** (for English-speaking)

Venue: Stella Maris, Penang

Fee: RM300/pax

Contact: Anne Lee (012-4285033) / Teresa Lim (012-4311697)

CHOICE WEEKEND 2026 (FOR SINGLE, WORKING ADULTS 21-40YO)

COME be changed by this once in a lifetime experience!

Fee: RM150/pax (incl. board & meals)

English Weekend #63: **Fri, 4 Sep – Sun, 6 Sep 2026.**

Mandarin Weekend #13: **Fri, 14 Aug – Sun, 16 Aug 2026.**

Venue: Domus, Minor Basilica of St. Anne, BM

Contact: Esther Boo -English (017-77946901) / Lawrence Soon-Mandarin (018-7913225)